

APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine
Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)
 March 21, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Sites	Survey			Diagnostics	
	Number of Locations	Number of Traps	Number of Moths	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive
Nurseries	0	0	0	0	0
Private Residences	2	2	2	2	1
Commercial Sites	0	0	0	0	0
Public Areas	24	1,439	24	24	0
Total to Date	26	1,441	26	26	1

- **Survey:**
 - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, California.
 - To date, a total of 1,441 traps have been inspected and 26 moths captured in urban areas within a 7 mile radius of the initial detections.
- **Diagnostics:**
 - Moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) Plant Health and Prevention Services Laboratory for the initial identification. LBAM presumptive positive moths are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, D.C. for confirmation.
 - To date, a total of 26 moths have been designated as presumptive positive, of which one moth was confirmed positive by SEL March 16, 2007.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
 - APHIS and CDFA have assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States and New Zealand to discuss and recommend survey methods and eradication strategies. This includes a number of environmentally friendly options - such as mating disruption with pheromone - that have been used elsewhere against LBAM infestations.

- **Incident Command:**
 - A total of 34 personnel on-site (30 CDFA and 4 APHIS) are assuming various roles within the ICS structure.
- **Regulatory Actions:**
 - No regulatory actions are required at the present time.
- **Treatment:**
 - No treatment is required at the present time.
 - CDFA and APHIS are in the process of examining treatment options and CDFA is working on acquiring registration for biopesticides.

Trade:

- Trading partners may react in various ways.
- Many countries such as Chile, Korea, Peru, and South Africa list the pest as a Quarantine Pest and may require certification attesting to pest freedom for commodities such as apples, pears, grapes, citrus, cherries and stone fruits.
- Mexico and Canada may also require some type of certification.

Communication and Outreach:

- USDA and CDFA issued press releases today announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California.
- SPRO letter was released today informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- Public Information Officers (PIO) from APHIS and CDFA are in the process of developing communication plans designed to inform stakeholders and cooperators of the survey objectives and response plans.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen, near Berkley, Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths were captured in a blacklight trap on his property.
- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and weekly inspections began March 7, 2007.
- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, D.C confirmed the samples were positive and validated using morphological testing.
- The Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana*, is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.
- Although, it was reported in Hawaii in late 1800s, the California find is the first in the mainland U.S.
- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause a significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, and apricots), pip fruit (apples and pears), grapes, cherries, and citrus.

